

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 02225 01 OF 02 161622Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 HEW-04 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01

/096 W

-----008675 161719Z /41

P R 161449Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3904

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 2225

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PL

SUBJ: PLENARY CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE:

BISHOPS IMPLICITLY SUPPORT THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY" AND CALL FOR
REGIME FULFILLMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE 162ND PLENARY CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE TOOK PLACE MARCH 8-9 IN WARSAW. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDES A VEILED ENDORSEMENT OF THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY", THE SERIES OF NON-SANCTIONED LECTURES IN CONTROVERSIAL THEMES WHICH HAS AROUSED REGIME CONCERN. IT ALSO ALLUDES TO FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, IMPLICITLY INCLUDING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE EPISCOPATE'S COMMUNIQUE ON THE CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, THE 80 POLISH BISHOPS WHO TOOK PART DIS-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 02225 01 OF 02 161622Z

CUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

(A) VATICAN RELATIONS WITH THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: THE BISHOPS "EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE HOLY SEE AND POLAND WILL SERVE THE WELFARE OF THE CHURCH AND THE NATION." (COMMENT:

WE HAVE HAD REPEATED INDICATIONS THAT CARDI-
NAL WYSZYNSKI AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES IN THE
POLISH CHURCH HIERARCHY ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT AN EXPANSION OF SUCH CONTACTS,
ESPECIALLY TO THE LEVEL OF ESTABLISHING FORMAL
VATICAN REPRESENTATION IN WARSAW. ONE RE-
LIABLE SOURCE HAS RECENTLY TOLD US, HOWEVER,
THAT THE PRIMATE IS RESIGNED TO THIS HAPPENING.
(END COMMENT.)

(B) THE SOCIAL-MORAL SITUATION IN POLAND: THE
BISHOPS "EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT IN THE
PRESENT SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY, THE POLITICAL
AND STATE AUTHORITIES WILL UNDERTAKE THOSE
STEPS WHICH, RESPECTING CIVIL RIGHTS GUARANTEED
IN THE CONSTITUTION AND CONFIRMED IN INTER-
NATIONAL DOCUMENTS--COULD LEAD TO SURMOUNTING
DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY ACCUMULATED."
POLES, THE BISHOPS SAID, WANT TO SERVE THE
NATION; IT IS UP TO THE AUTHORITIES TO CREATE
THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL "MAKE THE LIBERA-
TION OF THIS CITIZEN ENERGY POSSIBLE."
(COMMENT: THE "CIVIL RIGHTS CONFIRMED IN INTER-
NATIONAL DOCUMENTS" COULD, OF COURSE, INCLUDE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT OBLIGATIONS AS WELL AS
THOSE ARISING FROM, E.G. THE INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WARSAW 02225 01 OF 02 161622Z

CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, RE-
CENTLY RATIFIED BY POLAND. THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE POLISH CHURCH
HAS MENTIONED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL
RIGHTS AGREEMENTS IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
(END COMMENT.)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 02225 02 OF 02 161708Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 HEW-04 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/096 W

-----009062 161719Z /41

P R 161449Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3905
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 2225

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

(C) SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS: THE BISHOPS CHARGED PRIESTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR PARISHIONERS. THE BISHOPS CALLED ON THE AUTHORITIES TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD MAKE INHABITANTS OF RURAL AREAS FEEL SECURE AND PROUD OF THEIR WORK.

(D) WORKINGCONDITIONS IN HEAVY INDUSTRY AND MINES: THE BISHOPS ASSERTED THAT EMPLOYEES IN HEAVY INDUSTRY AND IN THE MINES ARE OVERWORKED AND, AS A RESULT OF FATIGUE, NEGLECT FAMILY, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS. THE BISHOPS APPEALED TO THE AUTHORITIES TO ALLEVIATE THESE CONDITIONS.

(E) CARITAS: THE BISHOPS SAID THE STATE-SPONSORED CHARITABLE AGENCY CARITAS HAS GONE BEYOND ITS MANDATE. IT SHOULD CARE, THEY SAID, FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 02225 02 OF 02 161708Z

CHILDREN, THE SICK, AND THE AGED. ATTEMPTS UNDERTAKEN BY CARITAS TO ESTABLISH A RETIRMENT FUND FOR PRIESTS, THE BISHOPS MAINTAINED, ARE VIOLATIONS OF CANON LAW.

3. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, THE BISHOPS HEARD A REPORT FROM KAROL CARDINAL WOJTYLA ON THE WORK OF THE STUDIES COUNCIL OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, AND CONSIDERED THE STATE OF CULTURE IN POLAND: "FOR YEARS THE STIGMA OF MATERIALSITIC MONISM AND LAICISM, FOREIGN TO THE POLISH SPIRIT, HAS TRIED TO IMPOSE ITSELF ON POLISH CULTURE. THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL FOR ALL ACTIONS WHICH RESTRICT THE HUMAN

SPIRIT FREELY CREATING CULTURAL VALUES. THE FACT OF LIMITATIONS ON SCIENTIFIC, INVESTIGATIVE, ARTISTIC AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BY STATE CENSORSHIP IS DEPLORABLE...THE CHURCH WILL SUPPORT THOSE INITIATIVES WHICH SEEK TO PRESENT CULTURE, WORKS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, AND THE HISTORY OF THE NATION IN AN AUTHENTIC FORM BECAUSE THE NATION HAS A RIGHT TO THE OBJECTIVE TRUTH ABOUT ITSELF."

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE RECENTLY IMPROVED CLIMATE OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS AND THE HANDS-OFF APPROACH THE CHURCH HAS TAKEN TOWARD DISSIDENCE IN POLAND, THE BISHOPS COULD HARDLY COME OUT WITH A FLAT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY" PROGRAM OF NON-SANCTIONED LECTURES ON TOUCHY SUBJECTS WHICH, TO SAY THE LEAST, HAS SET REGIME TEETH ON EDGE. THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY" DOES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE A FORUM FOR UNFETTERED LEARNING THAT COULD QUALIFY AS ONE OF THE "INITIATIVES" THAT GIVE THE NATION "THE OBJECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WARSAW 02225 02 OF 02 161708Z

TRUTH ABOUT ITSELF." THE SENTENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE QUOTED ABOVE IS BEING WIDELY INTERPRETED AROUND WARSAW AS A VEILED ENDORSEMENT. END COMMENT.
BROWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW02225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780117-0827
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780357/aaaabwmg.tel
Line Count: 199
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfa717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3298328
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLENARY CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE: BISHOPS IMPLICITY SUPPORT THE "FLYING UNIVERSITY" AND CALL FOR REGIME FULFILLMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfa717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014